

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action mailed April 4, 2007, and the Advisory Action mailed June 12, 2007. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5 and 16 and canceled claims 2, 9-11 and 17-19. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8, and 12-16 are pending, of which claims 1 and 16 are independent.

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Rimell and Lewis for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of May 1, 2007, during which Applicants' representative and the examiners discussed the Swan reference vis-à-vis claim 1. In particular, Examiner Rimell indicated that the method claims would distinguish over the Swan reference if they were amended to recite "consisting of" rather than "comprising." Given that the Swan reference is the only reference of record, Applicants understand that amending the claims as Examiner Rimell suggested would place the application in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants would like to further thank Examiner Rimell for his time on June 27, 2007, in explaining why detail was not provided in the Advisory Action mailed June 12, 2007, as to why amendments filed May 30, 2007, were not entered.

Without conceding the propriety of the current rejection, Applicants have, in order to expedite prosecution, amended independent claims 1 and 16 in the manner suggested by Examiner Rimell on May 1, 2007. In particular, Applicants have amended independent method claims 1 and 16 to recite "consisting of" in place of "comprising" in the preambles. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended for consistency with the amendments to independent claim 1. Claims 2, 9-11 and 17-19 have been canceled. Support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed claims; no new matter has been added.

In view of the telephone interview of May 1, 2007, Applicants understand that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request that the present amendments be entered and the claims allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to

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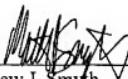
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concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to this amendment.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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